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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/081,278	Applicant(s) MOY ET AL.	
	Examiner Rutao Wu	Art Unit 3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.
- 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 - 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/25/02, 4/18/02
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claim 13 directs to "generating a revenue required for said selected operating feature." However, this feature was not described in the specifications and therefore does not allow one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to perform this function.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Regarding claim 13, the phrase "generating a revenue for said selected operating feature" is unclear. It is unclear if the revenue is referring to the amount that the feature,

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once enabled, can make, or if the revenue is the cost of enabling said feature.

Appropriate action is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat No. 6,462,286 to Schwartz et al.

Referring to claim 1:

A customized modular mailing system including a module capable of metering value and having a plurality of disabled operating features that are not available for use; means for generating an authorization code for enabling certain designated operating features; and means for entering the authorization code into the value metering module whereby the desired combination of operating modules having the desired operating features can be placed in communication with the metering value module to create the desired modular mailing system. (col 10: lines 12-16, 55-63)

Referring to claim 2:

A customized modular mailing system according to claim 1, wherein said module capable of metering value is a postage meter. (col 2: lines 43-47; col 7: lines 15-18)

Referring to claim 3:

A customized modular mailing system according to claim 1, wherein said disabled operating features include both hardware implemented features and software implemented features. (col 10: lines 12-16)

Referring to claim 5:

A customized modular mailing system according to claim 4 wherein said scale is a dynamic scale or a static scale. (col 10: lines 52-54)

Referring to claim 7:

A customized modular mailing system comprising:

A value metering module having a plurality of disabled operating features, wherein the disabled operating features are not available for use; (col 10: lines 55-56)

Means for selecting at least one of the operating features from the plurality of disabled operating features for enabling such features. (col 10: lines 12-16, 55-63)

A parameter list for storing operating features;

Schwartz et al discloses software necessary for running system 10 are stored in memory section 250. (col 7: lines 57-58) Schwartz et al further disclosed an application module where software necessary for running different system options and Operating system are stored. (col 9: lines 13-16; col 10: lines 10-11) Therefore it is an inherent feature of Schwartz et al's invention to store a list of features operated by software.

Means for determining a unique serial number from at least one of the selected operating features and adding the unique serial number to the parameter list; (col 10: lines 17-25)

Means for generating an authorization code based on the parameter list for enabling the selected features of the value metering module; and(col 10: lines 17-25)

Means for entering the authorization code into the value metering module for customizing the value metering module with the selected operating features. (col 10: lines 17-25)

Referring to claim 8:

A customized modular mailing system according to claim 7, further comprising:

Means for transmitting said parameter list to a third party; and

Schwartz et al discloses that the authorization number is generated outside of system 10 and then provided to the user. The authorization number includes items such as the serial number of the system 10, the model number of software, a 32-bit option number whose bit pattern corresponds to a particular combination of enabled and disabled system options. (col 10: lines 17-27) Since the authorization number is generated outside of system 10, there must be a method of transmitting the above information to the party that is generating the authorization number. Therefore it is an inherent feature to transmit.

Means for receiving said authorization code from the third party. (col 10 lines 17-18)

Referring to claim 10:

A customized modular mailing system according to claim 7, wherein said value metering module is a postage meter and the system includes means for determining a country and a postal carrier for which the postage meter will be used. (col 13: lines 36-37, 48-49)

Referring to claim 12:

A customized modular mailing system adapted to have added thereto a new operating feature comprising:

A postage metering module having at least one disabled operating feature which is not available for use, and at least one enable operating feature which is available for use. (col 10: lines 13-17)

Means to add a new operating feature for adding to the postage metering module from the at least one disabled operating feature; (col 10: lines 55-56)

Means for generating an authorization code from the enable operating features available for use, and from the selected disabled operating feature; and (col 10: lines 17-27)

Means to enter the authorization code into the postage metering module for enabling the selected operating feature for customizing the postage metering module with the selected operating features. (col 10: lines 13-15)

Referring to claim 14:

A customized modular mailing system in accordance with claim 12, wherein generating an authorization code includes:

Transmitting said enabling operating features available for use and said selected disabled operating feature to a third party; and

Schwartz et al discloses that the authorization number is generated outside of system 10 and then provided to the user. The authorization number includes items such as the serial number of the system 10, the model number of software, a 32-bit option number whose bit pattern corresponds to a particular combination of enabled and disabled system options. (col 10: lines 17-27) Since the authorization number is generated outside of system 10, there must be a method of transmitting the above information to the party that is generating the authorization number. Therefore it is an inherent feature to transmit.

Receiving the authorization code from the third party. (col 10 lines 17-18)

Referring to claim 16:

A customized modular mailing system according to claim 14, wherein transmitting said enabling operating features available for use and said selected disabled operating feature to said third party includes transmitting via the internet to said third party. (col 22: lines 11-16, Fig 33)

Referring to claim 30:

A customized modular mailing system including a module capable of performing a mail related function and having a plurality of disabled operating features that are not available for use; means for generating an authorization code for enabling certain designated operating features; and means for entering the authorization code into the capable of performing a mail related function module whereby the desired combination

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of operating module whereby the desired combination of operating modules having the desired operating features could be places in communication with the module capable of performing a mail related function to create a desired mailing system. (col 10: lines 12-16, 55-63)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 9, 15, 17, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al.

As per claim 9, 15, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose wherein said third party is the manufacturer of said value metering modules.

It is a norm in the industry when installing new software or hardware to get the drivers or software licenses/activation codes from the manufacture of the hardware or software. Schwartz et al discloses that the authorization number is generated outside of system 10 and provided to the user, thereby disclosing a third party who generate and provide the authorization number. Therefore, according to the standard of the business, the third party providing the authorization code is the manufacture of modules.

As per claim 17, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose receiving said authorization code from said third party includes receiving said authorization code via the internet.

Schwartz does disclose downloading data such as the rate schedule data and the zip/zone data, and the carrier service application program to system 10 for updating the system through the communications network (col 22: lines 13-16). Therefore, it is reasonable for Schwartz et al's invention to be able to receive authorization code via the internet from the third party, as updating system 10 requires the authorization code, therefore it would be more efficient to receive the authorization code with the system updates together through the communication network.

As per claim 18, A customized modular mailing system according to claim 12, wherein entering said authorization code into said postage meter further includes creating an update chip card having the authorization code for releasing said disable operator feature for use and inserting the update chip card into said postage meter and loading said authorization code from the chip card into said postage meter.

Schwartz et al discloses using IC cards to store new application code for updating stored programs. (col 10: lines 6-11) The examiner submits that it is obvious to use the IC card to load the authorization number because it does not require any modification to Schwartz et al's invention since it already has the ability and program to read and write from the IC card.

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10. Claims 4, 6, 19, 20, 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al in view of U.S. Pat No. 5,898,785 to Cornell et al.

As per claim 4, Schwartz et al discloses a scale.

Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose a postal security device.

Cornell et al discloses *The accounting structure of the postage meter is mechanically coupled to the postage meter printing mechanism and both are contained in a securely sealed postage meter housing. (col 1: lines 36-55)*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include the meter module having security means. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

As per claim 6, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose transporting means, therefore, does not disclose a selection of letter flow speed.

Cornell et al discloses a transport module (col 1: lines 36-55). It is an inherent function of a transport module to have the ability of changing the speed to which envelopes move from a feeding position to the postage meter printing device. It is an inherent feature because it must be able to vary the speed to be the most efficient, not creating a backlog with too slow of a speed, or starvation with too fast of a speed.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include a transport module comprising means for transporting a document. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

As per claim 19, Schwartz et al discloses a postage meter module and printing means for printing a postal indicia; wherein the postage meter module includes a plurality of disabled operating features that are not available for use; the mailing system further comprising means for generating an authorization code for enabling certain designated operating features and means for entering the authorization code into the postage meter module whereby the desired combination of operating modules having the desired operating features could be placed in communication with the postage meter module to thereby create a desired modular mailing system. (col 10: lines 12-16, 55-63)

Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose the meter module having security means and a transport module comprising means for transporting a document.

Cornell et al discloses *mailing machine provides the necessary structure for moving the recording medium upon which the postal indicia is to be printed, from a feeding position to the postage meter printing device. The accounting structure of the postage meter is mechanically coupled to the postage meter printing mechanism and*

both are contained in a securely sealed postage meter housing. (col 1: lines 36-55)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include the meter module having security means and a transport module comprising means for transporting a document. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

As per claim 20, Schwartz et al disclose a scale module. (col 10: line 54)

As per claims 22, 28, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose wherein said document is an envelope.

Cornell et al discloses envelopes. (col 1: line 40)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to disclose envelopes. One would be motivated to perform such modification because both invention are from the same field of endeavor, both related to postage processing systems.

As per claim 23, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose system comprising an envelope sealing module.

Cornell et al discloses an envelope sealing module. (col 1: lines 36-55)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include the

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envelope sealing module. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

As per claim 24, Schwartz discloses a mailing system including a plurality of disabled operating features that are not available for use; the mailing system further comprising means for generating an authorization code for enabling certain designated operating features and means for entering the authorization code into the postage meter module whereby the desired combination of operating modules having the desired operating features could be placed in communication with the postage meter module to thereby create a desired modular mailing system. (col 10: lines 12-16, 55-63)

Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose the system having a module capable of feeding sheets.

Cornell et al discloses *in the simplest mailing machine, only a recording medium feeding mechanism is included. In more sophisticated mailing machines, known structure is provided along the mailpiece feed path to accomplish addition functions. (col 1: lines 36-55)*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to have a module capable of feeding sheets. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to

communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

As per claim 25, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose a module capable of feeding sheets and is also capable of separating sheets.

Cornell et al discloses *In more sophisticated mailing machines, known structure is provided along the mailpiece feed path to accomplish addition functions such as singulating individual envelopes. (col 1: lines 36-55)*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include a module capable of feeding sheets and is also capable of separating sheets. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

As per claim 26, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose the module capable of feeding sheets is also capable of moistening.

Cornell et al discloses *In more sophisticated mailing machines, known structure is provided along the mailpiece feed path to accomplish addition functions such as singulating individual envelopes moistening envelopes flaps. (col 1: lines 36-55)*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include a module capable of feeding sheets is also capable of moistening. Schwartz et al

provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

As per claim 27, Schwartz et al discloses wherein said disabled operating features include both hardware implemented features and software implemented features. (col 10: lines 12-16)

11. Claims 11, 21, 29, 31, 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al in view of U.S. Pat No. 4,800,504 to Durst, JR. et al.

As per claim 11, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose features include a scale, a stacker, and envelope sealing mechanism, an envelope moistening apparatus, a feeder/separator, and inserter, and an addresser.

Durst, Jr. et al discloses the above devices (Fig 2a)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include the above devices. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

As per claims 21, 29, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose a document stacking module.

Durst, Jr. et al discloses a document stacking module (Fig 2a)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include a document stacking module. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

As per claim 31, Schwartz et al discloses: A customized modular mailing system including a module capable of performing a mail related function and having a plurality of disabled operating features that are not available for use; means for generating an authorization code for enabling certain designated operating features; and means for entering the authorization code into the capable of performing a mail related function module whereby the desired combination of operating module whereby the desired combination of operating modules having the desired operating features could be places in communication with the module capable of performing a mail related function to create a desired mailing system. (col 10: lines 12-16, 55-63)

Schwartz et al does not disclose specific operating features for a feeder and a stacker.

Durst Jr. et al discloses a mail system with a feeder and a stacker. (Fig 2a)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include a feeder and a stacker. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an

object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

As per claim 32, Schwartz et al discloses: A customized modular mailing system including a module capable of performing a mail related function and having a plurality of disabled operating features that are not available for use; means for generating an authorization code for enabling certain designated operating features; and means for entering the authorization code into the capable of performing a mail related function module whereby the desired combination of operating module whereby the desired combination of operating modules having the desired operating features could be places in communication with the module capable of performing a mail related function to create a desired mailing system. (col 10: lines 12-16, 55-63)

Schwartz et al does not disclose specific operating features for a scale but not for a stacker.

Durst Jr. et al discloses a mail system with a stacker. (Fig 2a)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include a stacker. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

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12. Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Durst Jr. et al in view of Cornell et al, and in further view of Schwartz et al.

As per claims 33, 34 Durst et al discloses a feeder function but does not expressly disclose the feeder function includes both a sheet separator and moistening function.

Cornell et al discloses Cornell et al discloses *In more sophisticated mailing machines, known structure is provided along the mailpiece feed path to accomplish addition functions such as singulating individual envelopes moistening envelopes flaps. (col 1: lines 36-55)*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Durst Jr. et al's invention to include the sheet separator and moistening function from Cornell et al. One would be motivated to perform such modification because both inventions are from the same field of endeavor, both related to postage processing systems.

Also it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Schwartz et al's invention with the combination of Durst Jr. et al and Cornell's invention. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

Conclusion

13. Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat No. 5,206,812 to Abumehdi.

U.S. Pat No. 5,257,197 to Guenther et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,029,155 to Bass et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,064,991 to Reisinger et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,076,081 to Bass et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,111,951 to Guenther.

U.S. Pat No. 6,199,752 to Bornemann et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,282,590 to Ellis et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,378,012 to Bass et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,385,597 to Guenther et al.

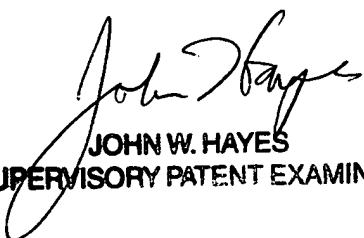
U.S. Pat No. 6,418,422 to Guenther et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rutao Wu whose telephone number is (571)272-3136. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER